

REMARKS

In an effort to reduce the issues before the examiner, the claims previously submitted have been cancelled and new claims have been submitted herewith.

5           The new independent claim 15 has been separated into a pre-characterizing part and a characterizing part. It is deemed not obvious to combine the aspects of using coniferous wood (or poplar wood) and preservative heat treatment. Arguments for non-obviousness have been inserted into the new introductory part of the application. Applying a preservative heat treatment to coniferous wood changes the structure of the

10       wood. It is generally assumed that as an effect of this change in the jointed wood structure obtained by finger jointing with the use of glue, the finger joint will be a weak spot in the wood structure. It empirically appears that such joints can be made as strong as the joints in coniferous wood not subjected to a preservative heat treatment.


15           It is urged that the non-obvious nature of the result of the method obviates the rejection under 35 USC 103.

          It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, and notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

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**Respectfully submitted,  
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